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December 21, 1999

The President's Council on Food Safety
Docket No.98-045N
USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk
300 12th Street, SW, Room 102 Cotton Annex
Washington DC 20250-3700

Subject: Docket No. Docket No.98-045N

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my understanding that legislation is pending to stop the spread of drug-resistant bacterial infections caused by the over prescribing of antibiotics!

So far, however, the legislation deals only with antibiotics administered to people. More than 40 percent of all antibiotics sold in the United States though are administered to farm animals to promote growth and prevent disease in unnaturally overcrowded factory farms.

The National Research Council estimates that if this non-medicinal use of antibiotics for farm animals were prohibited, food costs would increase by only \$5 to \$10 per person annually – a small price to pay for reducing animal suffering and keeping antibiotics effective.

Therefore, I am herewith advising you that to deal with this crisis effectively, legislation must address antibiotic overuse on factory farms as well as in human medicine. Ensuring more humane and hygienic treatment of farm animals is the most up-front way to deal with food safety hazards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marliese Bonk'.
Marliese Bonk